



New Jersey FFA Association
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources
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In Cooperation with NJ Department of Education

TO: FFA Chapter Advisors, State Executive Board Members and FFA Members
FR: Robin C. McLean, State FFA Specialist
C: Nancy J. Trivette, Program Leader for Agricultural Education, State FFA Advisor and
RE: **77th State FFA Convention - *The Most Important FFA Event of the Year***
DATE: March 14, 2006

***The 77th Annual New Jersey State FFA Convention will be held
May 23-25, 2006 in Hickman Hall
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ***

Highlights of the 77th NJ State FFA Convention

- National FFA Central Region Vice President – Anita Estes
- Keynote speaker – Trent McKnight
- Leadership Banquet on Wednesday

Competencies

Student participation in state convention, the delegate process, and career development events helps them gain employability skills necessary for the future. Through State FFA Convention events, students meet New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards including:

- Career Education and Consumer, Family and Life Skills – Standard 9.1 and 9.2
- Language Arts Literacy – Standards 3.3 and 3.4
- Social Studies – Standard 6.2

Delegates

The New Jersey FFA Constitution **requires two delegates from each chapter** attend the annual state FFA convention to form the delegate assembly. Delegates should be chosen from the ***top level leadership*** positions in the chapter. Just as the state association reserves the leadership delegate positions for the president and vice president of the association, so should the chapter select the highest ranking officers to serve as official chapter delegates to conduct state association business. Serving as an official delegate is a prestigious and important experience for chapter members. Delegates will serve on committees, establish policy and elect new state officers.

Convention

The convention is an educational experience that develops premier leadership, personal growth and career success. FFA members will have the opportunity to be recognized for their achievements, participate in career development events held at convention and attend motivational workshops and sessions. More than \$15,000 in awards and scholarships will be presented to NJ FFA members at the convention.

Registration

(Students may only compete in one national level Career Development Event during the state convention. See National guidelines 2006 - 2010 guidelines.)

Convention registration will be held Tuesday, May 23rd from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Lippincott Dorm. The Cook Douglass Recreation Center, including the pool, will be available for recreation from 3:00 – 5:00 pm on Tuesday.

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006

- Nominating Committee Meeting *will be held at 1:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 117*
- Official Ceremonies *will be held at 2:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 119*
- Agricultural Issues Forum *will be held at 2:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 119*
- Preliminary 6-8 min. Public Speaking *will be held at 3:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 131*
- Preliminary Creed Speaking *will be held at 3:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 129*
- Preliminary 3-5 min. Public Speaking *will be held at 3:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 130*
- Preliminary Extemporaneous Speaking *will be held at 3:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 113*
- State Officer Candidate Exam *will be held at 4:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 118*
- Landscape Design Set-up *will be at 4:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 123*
- Delegate Orientation *will be held at 4:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 138*
- Star Interviews *will be held at 5:30 p.m. Hickman Hall, Room 129/130*
- Landscape Design Judging *will be at 6:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 123*
- Courtesy Corps Meeting *will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 138*
- Student Leadership Workshop *will be held at 6:00 pm in Hickman Hall, Room 101*
- Ag Teachers and Chaperones Meeting *will be held at 6:00 pm in Hickman Hall, Rooms 119*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2006

- 6-8 min. Public Speaking *will be held at 8:30 a.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 101*
- Creed Speaking *will be held at 8:30 a.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 130*
- 3-5 min. Public Speaking *will at 8:30 a.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 138*

- Extemporaneous Speaking *will be held at 8:30 a.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 119*
- Delegate Committee Meetings *will be held at 8:30 a.m. in Hickman Hall*
- Individual Demonstration Event *will be held at 1:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 115*
- Team Demonstration Event *will be held at 1:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 115*
- Parliamentary Procedure *will be held at 1:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Rooms 101/123*
- Job Interview *will be held at 1:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Rooms 129/130*
- Tractor Driving *will be held at 1:00 p.m. in Lot #98B on College Farm Road*
- Delegate Business Session I *will be held at 1:00 p.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 138. This will occur prior to Session III.*

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2006

- Delegate Business Session II *will be held at 8:30 a.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 138 as part of Session V*
- State FFA Degree Ceremony *will be held at approx. 10:00 a.m. in Hickman Hall, Room 138 as part of Session V*
- Election of 2005-2006 New Jersey State FFA Officers *will provide the culmination of the 77th annual New Jersey State FFA Convention*

Registering Delegates and Courtesy Corps Members

Please preregister chapter delegates and candidates for Courtesy Corps by April 7th. Preregistration for members and advisors with payment is due by April 7th. Refunds are not possible. Please use the online registration form for state convention. This form can be accessed on the state website at http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rural/ag_ed/events.htm
Email completed forms to ag.ed.registration@ag.state.nj.us

*****SPECIAL NOTE*****

Participants of the Tractor Driving Event and their advisor must sign the “Tractor Safety Assurance Form” located in the online State Convention registration. The form must be completed and faxed into the state office with registration.

Please complete the “Advisor Statement of Assurances” document and fax it to the state office with registration. Advisors and other state convention chaperones are requested to sign this form.

Convention costs are as follows:

1. **Complete Package** (Residents) - **\$115** (covers five (5) meals, lodging-double occupancy only, recreation, workshops, motivational speakers, dance and registration). **Add \$10.00 per person registered for late registration (after April 7th).**

2. **Partial Package Attendance Prices -**

a. Registration (each day/any part of day) *	\$30.00
b. Breakfast	\$7.50
c. Lunch	\$9.75
d. Dinner	\$14.00
e. FFA Dance	\$7.50
f. Wednesday Evening Banquet	\$16.00
g. Lodging only (Per night)	\$30.00

* Includes parking privileges, liability insurance, facilities usage and recreational facilities.

3. **Convention Event Costs**

a. Agricultural Issues (per contestant, up to \$28)	\$7.00
b. Job Interview (per contestant)	\$7.00
c. Parliamentary Procedure (per team)	\$28.00
d. Official Ceremonies (per team)	\$28.00
e. Creed Speaking (per contestant)	\$7.00
f. 3-5 Minute Prepared Public Speaking (per contestant)	\$7.00
g. 6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaking (per contestant)	\$7.00
h. Extemporaneous Public Speaking (per contestant)	\$7.00
i. Tractor Driving (per contestant)	\$7.00
j. Parking Pass (per day)	\$2.00

4. **The replacement cost to chapters for unreturned room keys is \$60 per key for any key not returned within 48 hours.** Keys must be returned in an envelope with the name of the residence hall and room number printed on the envelope. **Replacement cost for entry key card is \$10. A replacement meal badge is \$5.00.**

5. Any room/ dorm damages or losses that occur will be billed to the chapters whose students are registered for that dorm.

6. **Single occupancy rooms are not available as a part of the above package price; therefore, we do not offer any single occupancy rooms.**

Other Convention Activities:

1. **Convention applications are due into the State Office on April 1, 2006 - as listed in Calendar of Events.**

- a. NJ FFA Scholarship Application
<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rural/stguide/14.008.xls>
- b. Advisor of the Year Recognition
<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rural/stguide/14.009.xls>
- c. National Chapter Evaluation Form I & II (national application)
- d. Superior Chapter - National Chapter Evaluation Form I (national application)
<http://www.ffa.org/programs/natchap/index.html>

- e. Most Improved Chapter
<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rural/stguide/15.014.xls>
- f. Member of the Year
(Student must have received member of the month between May 2005 & April 2006)
- g. FFA Week
<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rural/stguide/15.013ffaweek.xls>
- h. Agriscience Student and Teacher Application (national application)
http://www.ffa.org/programs/ag_sci/index.html
- i. State FFA Essay Event
<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rural/stguide/14.024.pdf>
- j. Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship Application
<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rural/stguide/14.022.xls>
- k. Agri-Entrepreneurs Award (national application)
http://www.ffa.org/programs/ag_ent/index.html
- l. H. O. Sargent Award (national application)
<http://www.ffa.org/programs/hosargent/index.html>
- m. Nominating Committee Application
<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rural/stguide/14.004.xls>

*****Special Note*****

2. The following event registrations are included in the State Convention registration due on April 7 under the “Pre-Registration” tab.

- a. Chapter Scrapbook Event *(Register now and bring entry to convention)*
- b. Chapter Treasurer's Book Event *(Register now and bring entry to convention)*
- c. Chapter Secretary's Book Event *(Register now and bring entry to convention)*
- d. Public Relations Event *(Register now and bring entry to convention)*
- e. Job Interview *(Contestant must submit ten (10) copies of event materials - cover letter, resume and references) by registration deadline of April 7)*
- f. Agricultural Awareness Applications *(Register now and bring entry to convention)*
- g. Parliamentary Procedure
- h. Official Ceremonies
- i. Public Speaking
 - Creed
 - 3-5 Minute Public Speaking *(Ten type written copies with cover page due with registration by April 7)*
 - 6-8 Minute Public Speaking *(Ten type written copies with cover page due with registration by April 7)*
 - Extemporaneous Speaking
- j. Tractor Driving *(Participant must submit (fax) Safety Assurance form by registration deadline)*

These forms are available under separate tabs located on the bottom of the registration spreadsheet.

- a. Tractor Driving Safety Assurance Form – *must be signed and faxed to the State Office*
- b. Individual Demonstration
- c. Team Demonstration
- d. Portable Exhibit *(Register now and bring entry to convention)*
- e. Advisor Statement of Assurances - *must be signed and faxed to the State Office*

3. Names of Official Chapter Delegates, Courtesy Corps Candidates and participants **are due April 7th**. Delegates packets will be e-mailed to advisors and posted on the event registration website prior to convention. Please review these materials with your chapter and delegates so they are familiar with them. Courtesy Corps selections will be made in advance and teachers will be notified.
4. **All state officer candidates must submit their application, Advisors Appraisal Form and \$100 application fee to the State FFA Office by May 1, 2006.** NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE OR AT THE CONVENTION. Candidates must attend in official dress. Candidates are reminded that a copy of their Garden State Degree must be submitted with the State Officer application by May 1, 2006. It is the candidate's responsibility to supply the State Degree Application with the State Officer Application. (This is not a State Office responsibility.) *Newly elected state officers will meet following the close of the convention until approximately 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, May 25. Please plan transportation accordingly.*

(Note: A \$100 refundable application fee per state officer candidate is required from the FFA Chapter. The State FFA Officer Application will not be considered complete without this application fee. If not elected to a year of service, the chapter will be refunded the \$100. Upon completion of the year of service, the chapter will be refunded the \$100 application fee. If an elected officer does not complete his/her year, the \$100 application fee is forfeited and the fee will be used to cover expenses incurred, such as State Association FFA Jacket, AAA membership, polo shirts, and planners.)
5. **Applications due on-site at convention on May 23, 2006** should be brought to Hickman Hall, Rooms 114/115 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

Convention Rules and Information

1. **Members must attend each convention session. No members will be in the dormitories during the convention. Members who are found in dorms during convention sessions without permission will be sent home. School administrators and parents will be notified. Convention sessions and organized activities are conducted continuously through the convention.**
2. Members receiving awards, participating in contests, and serving in official capacities must be in official dress. All members attending sessions must also wear official dress or other appropriate business/professional clothing.
3. Members receiving Proficiency Awards, Garden State FFA Degrees, Career Development Event Awards, and Chapter Awards should meet in Room 138, Hickman Hall at least 20 minutes prior to the session to be seated in an award winners section of the auditorium.
4. Members and advisors must bring their own:
 - a. Towels & soap
 - b. Sleeping bag or sheets, blankets and a pillow
 - c. Equipment & appropriate clothing for recreation
 - d. Official FFA Dress (see FFA manual)
 - e. Other personal items

5. Teachers/Advisors must accompany their students at all times during the convention. **Ratio of students to advisors must be at least 10:1. Teachers/Advisors are responsible for their students at all times. Any teacher/advisor not at the conference site will be considered negligent.** Male and female chaperones are strongly recommended. Chaperones will be housed near students from the same school. **All teachers and chaperones must attend the Convention Chaperone Orientation meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday in Hickman Hall Room 119.**
6. Advisors of standing committees will be scheduled to meet with delegates on Wednesday, May 25, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. This is immediately prior to Session II.
7. Advisors will be asked to assist with events, Courtesy Corps, and Recreation. Contact Paulette Nyiri if you have an interest in a specific area.
8. Recreation is scheduled for Tuesday from 3:00-5:00 p.m. This includes swimming, tennis, volleyball, basketball, etc. at the Cook College Gym on Biel Road. Additional recreation will be scheduled for Wednesday.
9. **Emergency Telephone Numbers**
*****Cook Douglass Housing Office - 732-932-9005; Rutgers Police - 732-932-7111**

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